

INTRODUCTION

Are you looking for a career that is physically challenging, as well as professionally rewarding? Are you looking for a position that offers great benefits and a flexible work schedule? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then a career in the fire service may be for you!

WHAT IS THE JOB OF FIREFIGHTER REALLY LIKE?

Firefighting involves vigorous and skilled physical work, as well as handling emergency and life-or-death situations. In addition to fighting fires and rescuing citizens from burning buildings, firefighters also:

- Work with citizens regarding fire prevention.
- Conduct commercial and residential fire inspections.
- Perform community services.
- Provide emergency medical care (both first responder and paramedic).
- Extinguish fires and perform post-fire salvage and clean-up.
- Perform water rescue.
- Protect the environment from hazardous material incidents.
- Perform heavy rescue operations from cars, collapsed buildings, etc.
- Conduct and participate in a variety of training programs to learn the latest firefighting technology and methods.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to explore a challenging career opportunity in one of the most progressive Fire Departments in California. The following opportunities can be accomplished as a Firefighter with the Stockton Fire Department.

Fire Suppression

Paramedic Program: As a Firefighter, become part of an ever-growing, advanced Emergency Medical System provided to our community.

Hazardous Materials Team: As a Firefighter, become a HazMat Technician or Specialist providing Hazardous Materials mitigation and awareness to our community.

Water Rescue Team: As a Firefighter, become Swift Water Rescue or Dive Rescue Certified and provide water safety on the waterways surrounding our community.

Technical Rescue: As a Firefighter, become trained in the disciplines of Confined Space, Trench, and High and Low Angle Rescue. The Technical Rescue Team provides a great level of preparedness should a major disaster strike.

Fire Prevention Division: As a Firefighter, become trained in Fire Inspecting, Fire Code, and Public Education in fire safety. Enter the Fire Prevention Division as a Deputy Fire Marshal.

Fire Training Division: As a Firefighter, advance your educational and promotional goals through Technical Schools, State Fire Academy, and “hands on” on-the-job training. Advance to the position of Deputy Training Director.

WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER?

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a high school graduate or possess a G.E.D.
- Successfully pass a physical health examination.
- Vision requirements are 20/30 for visual acuity, either corrected or uncorrected. (Note: if corrected, no worse than 20/100 uncorrected in each eye separately). For laser surgery, one (1) year minimum elapsed time between surgery and qualifying examination. Complete color blindness will be cause for rejection.
- Hearing in both ears must be within normal range - 5/5.
- Strength and stamina sufficient to lift and carry equipment and patients weighing up to 165 pounds and be able to wear self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Pass a Physical Agility Test.
- Possess a valid California Class “C” Driver’s License. Must obtain a Class “B” Restricted Driver’s License within one year of appointment. Must possess or be able to acquire within one year of employment,

current certification as an Emergency Medical Technician Level I.

- Be legally authorized to work in the United States.
- Pass a comprehensive background investigation and psychological assessment.

WHAT TYPES OF TESTS DO YOU TAKE?

Written Test: Measures reading comprehension, mechanical and spatial aptitude, mathematics, and the ability to comprehend and learn firefighting material from written instructions.

Oral Panel Interview: Measures interpersonal relations, oral communication skills, judgment and analytical ability, and your motivation to be a firefighter.

Physical Agility Test: Candidates will be evaluated on their physical preparedness to perform a series of job-related events. *A physical agility test will be given to test your ability to perform firefighting duties that require physical agility, strength, and endurance.*

After the Testing: Those candidates who successfully pass the tests listed above will have their name placed on an “eligible list” and may be called for a final job interview.

The City of Stockton Fire Department has its own Fire Academy. During this time, you will receive classroom instruction and learn and participate in the mechanics of fire suppression.

Residency Preference: Residency preference of five (5) points will be awarded to entry-level Fire Fighter applicants who have been residents of San Joaquin County for a minimum of **180 days prior** to the date of application. This credit is applied only after passing the oral examination process. Residency must be verifiable at the time of application through presentation of one or more of the following: current CA Driver’s License, current Identification Card, a current billing from a public utility, or other acceptable documents listing a street address in San Joaquin County.

**FIREFIGHTER IS NOT A JOB,
IT'S A CAREER!**

There are many ways to prepare for the career of Firefighter:

Fire Science Courses (Examples):

- Associate of Arts degree in Fire Science (contact Columbia Junior College, Chabot College, San Joaquin Delta College, or Modesto Junior College)
- California State Fire Science Certification Courses (contact the State Fire Marshal's Office)

Fire Science Related Courses:

- Basic English Grammar and Reading Comprehension
- Basic Mathematics
- Public Speaking
- Building Trades (for tool familiarization)
- Automotive Mechanics and Automotive Maintenance

First Aid Courses:

- Advanced First Aid Certificate
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR Certificate)
- Emergency Medical Technician I Certificate
- Paramedic Certification

Community Involvement (Examples):

- Office of Emergency Services
- California Conservation Corps
- California Department of Forestry
- Volunteer Fire Departments (Salida, Oakdale, Industrial, Empire, etc.)
- Stockton Fire Department Auxiliary & Explorer Programs
- Churches
- Scout Troops
- Community Organizations
- Hospitals
- Schools

**PREPARE YOURSELF TO PASS
THE STRENUOUS PHYSICAL
EXAMINATION**

PHYSICAL FITNESS

It is important to have and maintain a physical fitness program. No one course of physical fitness training will suit every individual. However, if your private physician approves, a physical training program that stresses endurance and total body strength may help you to succeed in physical agility performance testing and on the job.

Several institutions may assist you in selecting a physical fitness program; the community colleges; the YWCA/YMCA; a private health club; or a health maintenance organization (for example, Kaiser Permanente). If possible, bring a description of anticipated physical agility exercises when you meet with your trainer or physician.



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***Would You Like To
Be A Firefighter?***

You are invited to explore a challenging career opportunity in one of the most progressive Fire Departments in California.

The City of Stockton Fire Department's mission is to provide a high level of life and property safety through fire control, fire prevention service, emergency medical service, and the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents. The commitment is intended to safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community.

It is our objective to provide these services in a way that ensures our community will know that "we care."